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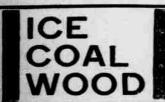
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Celts of the outlying fringes, amongst whom racial tendencies remain unaltered by changing circumstances, and by whom traditions are preserved not by historical purposes but by the exercise of her woman's wishes came all the instinctive exercise of faith, know that there is a Something which has a name but no quick principle, no settled purpose. Something which to an alien can only be described by negatives; if any idea can at all be arrived at by such—any idea however rudimentary, phantasmal or vague—it can only be acquired at all by a process of exclusion. The name is "The Gloom"; the rest is a door as she expected, but moved along

LADY ATHLYNE

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(Continued.)

As he did not know anything about the history of Colonel Oglivie's family he went to the peerage books and made lists of the bearers of that name In its different spellings; and then as he decided to go to many of the places named he made runs into Perthshire and Forfar. He came to the conclu-sion that he must have misunderstood

ing on the then coming Thursday for the north, and that he had given as the direction of his letters till further notice the "Inn of Greeting." Ambleside. The unqualified pleasure which he received from this news was neutralized by the postscript:

"By the way this of course in your

"By the way-this of course in your private car, now and hereafter-Colonel and that you have not even replied to his letter. Surely there must be some mistake about this. I sincerely hope co, for he looks on any breach of courtesy, or any defect in it, as an unpardonable sin. I know from the fact of his mentioning it to his womenkind that he has taken it to heart. Do, do my dear friend, who have done so much for us and whose friendship we wish to hold, repair this without delay. He is an old man and may possibly expect more from a younger man than from one of his own standing. I am sure that if there has been any omission there is on your part a good reason for it. But do not lose any time. If you wish to please us all—and I am sure you do—you would do well to go up to Ambleside—if you have not seen him already—and call on him there. And do like a dear man forop me a line at once to say you have received this and telling me what you intend to do."

to act: but not before.

On the journey he had allowed the chauffeur to drive, as he wanted to think over the whole matter without fear of interruption. He had sat in the tonneau and made from time to tome and made up his mind that he would write a letter to Colonel Oglivie telling him the whole circumstances. This he would keep in his pocket so that at the first moment when he was satisfied as to Joy's views he could post it, in case he could not have the opportunity of a personal explanation. After dinner the second night of the journey so much for us and whose friendship we wish to hold, repair this without delay. He is an old man and may pos-

HISKEY

He sat for a while quite still, putting his thoughts in order. It was now Monday so that Colonel Ogilvie would have been already some days at Amb'e-He took it for granted that Joy was with him, but he could not help a qualm of doubt about even that. was in the underlining of the word and that day when there was fitting opportunity the car hummed along meaning.

He care this wind sleep came to him.

Next day he took the wheel himself; and that day when there was fitting opportunity the car hummed along merrily at top speed. Before support the care that the care hummed along merrily at top speed.

there go quietly to Ambleside and find out for himself how things lay. The best place for him to stay at would for his purposes, be Bowness. There he would leave his car with the chauffour and drive in a good situation. feur and drive in a carriage to Ambleside. When there he would contrive
to meet if possible Joy alone. He
would surely be able to form from her
attitude some opinion of her disposition towards him. If he were satisfied as to this he would at once go
to her father, tell him the whole story
and place himself in his hands.

But then he thought that if he were

CHAPTER XI.

The Beautiful Twilight. But then he thought that if he were so near his name might become known

to Colonel Ogilvie; that infernal alias seemed to be always standing in his way! He was so obsessed by the sub-ject that at times he quite overlooked an hour's hard thought before this idea presented itself to him. It took a weight off his mind. If by any chance Colonel Oglivic should hear that an individual called Lord Athlyne was in the neighborhood it would mean nothing to him. Nothing except the proximity of one more of that "bloated lake lay below like a panorama; to sit lake lay below like a panorama; to sit on the steamer's deck and drift along icans run down-and another run after He was then up in Ross. As he did not wish to "rush" matters he decided to start next day. When that time came he had fully made up his plan of action. As the Ogilvies were at Ambleside he would go to Browness. As there was a service of public coachlow them. He wanted to have it in each ecould go between the places mentioned—without even the isolation of the carriage for his sole use. He would go quietly to the Inn of Greeting and learn what he could about their movements. The rest must depend on cir-cumstances. But there must be no hurry the matter was too serious now and the issue too important to take any risk. But when he should have seen Joy and knew, or believed, or understood . . . Then he would lose not a moment in seeing her father. But he might not get a chance of see-

All these weeks Athlyne had now and again had a vague feeling of un-easiness which he could not understand: a sort of feeling that he would some time wake and wonder what he had been fretting and fuming about. Why could be not have written to Colonel Ogilvie at any time? Even be-Coionel Ogilvie at any time? Even before he had left New York, or whilst
he had been on board ship, or whilst
the American family had been in Italy,
or even when the Colonel had been in
London? Why not now? After all,
there was nothing in any way wrong;
nothing to be acknowed of the way of nothing to be ashamed of. He was of good social position; at least as good as Joy's father was. He was himself rich and wanted no fortune with his wife. He had won certain honours—a man to whose name had been suffixed V.C. and D.S.O. must be considered personally adequate for ordinary purposes. And so on. Vanity and self-

ng him alone and under circumstances

interest, in addition to the working of the higher qualities, supplied many good reasons.

And yet! . . . He was always being brought up against one of two things: Colonel Ogilvie's peculiar views and character, or his dwn position towards nim with regard to the alias. He could always find in either of these something which might cause pain or trouble to Joy. Moreover there was another matter which was a powerful factor in his conclusions, although it was one which he did not analyse or even realise. It was one that worked unconsciously, a disposition rather than a thought. Lord Athlyne was Scotch and Irish; a Celt of Celts on his mother's side. He had all that underlying desire of the unknown which creates sentiment, and which is so pronounced a part of the Celtic character. This it is whence comes that clinging to the place of birth which has made the peasantry of the Green Isle for seven hundred years fight all opposing forces, from hunger to bayonets, to hold possession of their own. This it is which animated a race, century after century, to suffer and endure from their Conquerors of the more prosaic race all sorts of pain and want, and for reasons not understandable by others. Those who have lived amongst those Celts of the outlying fringes, amongst whom racial tendencies remain unaltered by changing circumstances, and by whom traditions are preserved not was ripening very fast; all her nature was yielding to it. Each day seemed to make her a trifle thinner. Her eyes was yielding to it. Each day seemed to make her a trifle thinner. Her eyes was yielding to it. Each day seemed to make her a trifle thinner. Her eyes was yielding to it. Each day seemed to make her a trifle thinner. Her eyes was yielding to it. Each day seemed to make her a trifle thinner. Her eyes was yielding to it. Each day seemed to make her a trifle thinner. Her eyes was yielding to it. Each day seemed to make her a trifle thinner. Her eyes was yielding to it. Each day seemed to make her a trifle thinner. Her eyes was yielding to it. Eac

birthright. Those who can understand it need no telling or explaining; others can no more understand it than those born without eyes can see. It is a quality opposed to no other; it can exist with any. It can co-exist with fighting, with song, with commerce. It makes no change in other powers or qualities of the children of Adam. Those who possess it can be good or bad, clever or silly, heroic or mean. It can add force to imagination underever, a good deal of local information which might be pleasing to his prospective father-in-law.

One morning he had a letter which quite fluttered him. It was from Aunt Judy telling him that Colonel Oglive had announced his intention of starting on the then coming Thursday for the north, and that he had a letter which directly the had announced his intention of starting on the then coming Thursday for the directly directly and that he had he had his full share of it. Be-ling young and strong and color the ling young and strong and color to imagination, understand nature, give quiet delight or spiritual pain. And the bulk of those who have it do not think of it or even know it; or if they do, hardly ever in the process of the proce

life which seldom lacks amusement he had not been given to self-analysis. But all the same, though he did not think of it, the force was there. In his present emotional crisis it brought the lover in him up to the Celtic ideal. An ideal so strangely saturated with love that his whole being, his aims and ambitions, his hopes and fears, his pleasures and pains yielded place to it. Ogilvie is vastly disappointed that you pleasures and pains yielded place to it have not been to see him in London. To him the whole world seemed to revolve round Joy as a pivotal point. Nothing could be of any use or interest which did not have touch of her or lead to her. So, he wanted to know beyond the mere measure of intelllectual belief if Joy loved him or was on the way to delay so. When he was the way to doing so. When he was satisfied as to this he would be free to act: but not before.

dinner the second night of the journey and then in his bedroom he sat up writing the letter and then copying it out on his own note paper of which he had for the purpose brought a supply with him. When it was completed it left nothing that he could think of open to doubt. When he had got this off his mind sleep came to him.

direct and too serious for any cryptic meaning.

He came to the conclusion that his best plan would be to go at once to some place on Windermere, and from

In the forenoon of the next day he

The Beautiful Twilight. The first couple of days at Amble side were a delight to Joy. In the change from the roar and ceaseless whirl of London was such a sense of the fact that at times he quite overloosed the fact that neither the Colonel nor any of his family knew anything ly place, where despite the life and whatever of the matter. It took him movement of the little town nature seemed to reign, was something to have hard thought before this idea calm nerves overstrung with waiting and apprehension. It was a relief to her at first, a pleasure later, to walk about the pleasant roads with her fath-

the beautiful lake. Her father was now and again impatient, not with her but because of patient, not with her but because of the non-arrival of the motor which he had ordered in London. It had not been quite ready when they left and so it was arranged that it should fol-low them. He wanted to have it in possession so that they could fly all telegraphing with the motor people in London, and when at last they wired that the car was nearly ready he got a map and traced out the route. Each day he marked out a space that he thought it ought to have covered, crediting it for every hour of daylight with top speed. After all, no matter what our ages may be, we are but children and the new toy but renews the old want and the old impatience; bringing in turn the old disillusionment and the avourable to his purpose. He must in turn the old disillusionment and the pe ready. All at once an idea struck old empty-hearted discontent. And the toy may be of any shape: even of a motor-car-or a beating that of

human heart. Partly out of affection for her father and so from sympathy with him, and partly as a relief to herself, Joy look ed eagerly for the coming of the car. She used to go with him to the post office when he was sending his tele-grams. Indeed she never left him; and be sure he was glad of her companionship. Now and again would come over her an overwhelming wave of deap-pointment-grief-regret-she knew not what-when she thought of the friendship so romantically begun but failing so soon. The letters from Aunt Judy used to worry and even humiliate her For Judy could not understand why there was no meeting; and her que tions, made altogether for the girl's happiness but made in the helplessness of complete ignorance, gave her niece interest in addition to the working of the higher qualities, supplied many good reasons.

Complete ignorance, gave her niece new concern. She had to give reasons invent excuses. This in itself, for she was defending the man only added

This all puzzled her; puzzled her very much. She knew that Judy had written to him of their coming to London, she had seen his reply to her letter; and Judy with her usual thoughtful kindness had mentioned-as though by chance, for she was the very soul of kindly discretion—that when she knew what locality and hotel had been fixed on for the visit to the Lakes she would tell him. It was evident, that he knew

they were there and in the hotel; why, then, did he not come to see them. How she would have hurried, she thought, had she been the man and loved as she did! She had no doubting whatever of his good faith. "Perfect love casteth out fear." And doubt is but fear in a tlinid form. She accepted in simple good faith that he had some purpose or reason of his own. Her manifest duty to him, therefore, was not to let any wish or act of hers clash with it. She set herself to think it all out, feeling in reality far happier than she had done for many weeks. It was not merely that she had, after long waiting, seen the man; but she was now able to do something for him—if indeed it was only the overhing of her

indeed it was only the curbing of her own curiosity, her own desires. She rose quietly and went to her bedroom which was at another side of the house—on the side towards which He had passed. Her father was writing letters and would not want her; he had said at breakfast that he would not be able to go out for an hour or two. In her room she went cautiously to her window and, again hiding behind the curtain, glanced into the street. She felt quite sad when she only saw his back as he walked slowly away. Every now and again he would stop and look round him as though admiring the place and the views as the openings between the houses allowed him to se the surrounding country. Once or twice she could see him look out under his eyebrows as though watching the hote without appearing to do so. Presently he turned the corner of the next street to the left, moving as though he wished to go all around the hotel.

She sat down and thought, her hear

beating hard. Her face was covered with both her hands. Forehead a cheeks and neck were deeply flushed; and when she took away her hands her eyes were bright and seemed to glow. She seemed filled with happiness, but all the same looked impossibly demure as is woman'e nature, playing to con vention even when alone.

Before she left the room she had several experiments the frock which she thought the most becoming. She did not send for her maid, but did everything for herself; even to hanging up the discarded frocks. Then she went back to the sitting room and took as before her seat at the window. keeping however a little more in the background. She wanted to see rather than to be seen. With her eyes seemingly on her book, but in reality sweeping under her lashes the approaches to the hotel like searchlights, she say quite quietly for some time. At length the eyes suddenly fell for an instant under an uncontrollable wave of diffidence; she had seen Him pass into the garden opposite to the hotel and go secretively behind some lilac bushes opposite the doorway. But after that one droop of the eves, there was scarcely even the flicker of an eyelid; she did not want to lose a single glimpse of him.

Sitting by the window, where he could see her, for a full hour until her father appeared, she thought over the new phase of the matter. If she had ever had any real doubt as to whether Mr. Richard Hardy loved her it was all resolved now. For certain he loved her—and as much, she hoped, as she loved him. He had sought her out at Ambleside; for even in her own secre-mind she never went through the pretence of trying to persuade herself that it may have been some one else that he was 'coking for. But why was he so secret? Why did

he not come at once into the hote ask to see her father. He had been invited to come; he had been made a welcome guest at the Holland. He knew their movements; he had written to Judy. But why did he keep so aloof? If he wanted to avoid them al-together he had only to keep away.

(To be Continued.)

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